



Steven K. Young, Director

### **DIA to Hold 'DIAlogue' with Health Care Providers, Stakeholders**

DES MOINES, IOWA (September 21, 2005) – The Iowa Department of Inspections and Appeals (DIA) will hold a “**DIAlogue**” with health care providers and other stakeholders on Thursday, October 13, beginning at 10 a.m. to discuss issues of mutual interest. The two-hour informational exchange will be held at the Des Moines Botanical Center, 909 East River Drive, Des Moines.

“The purpose of this first-of-its-kind **DIAlogue** is to concentrate on issues that center on regulatory oversight and their impact on health care providers,” DIA Director Steve Young said. “For some time, we have contemplated how best to communicate with our stakeholders and other interested parties about how the Department goes about its regulatory business,” he explained.

Young said the **DIAlogue** is patterned after a similar program being conducted by the Colorado state survey agency. “The Colorado program, like our plan for an Iowa **DIAlogue**, is to be interactive – not just DIA assuming full responsibility for communicating. I am hopeful that the session will result in a valuable exchange of information and ideas in an interactive forum,” he added.

For this first **DIAlogue** session, representatives from the federal Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the State Fire Marshal’s Office have been invited to talk about items of interest. Also planned for the October 13<sup>th</sup> meeting is an overview of the Civil Monetary Penalty fund administered by the Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS) and how that fund can be used to benefit long-term care residents. Additional presentations will be made by DIA staff responsible for investigating Medicaid fraud and dependent adult abuse. Provider industry representatives and advocate groups, too, have been invited to make presentations during the **DIAlogue** session.

“We are planning an aggressive, multi-issue agenda,” Director Young said, adding, “Our two-hour program should be informative for all participants, and I encourage health care providers and other stakeholders to attend and participate in this unique communication experience.”

Individuals interested in attending this first **DIAlogue** with the Department should contact Mary Montgomery at (515) 281-5457, or by e-mail at [mmontgomery@dia.state.ia.us](mailto:mmontgomery@dia.state.ia.us). Because of potential space limitations, interested parties should contact the Department by no later than the close of business on September 30<sup>th</sup>. An agenda for the meeting will be distributed by e-mail in early October.

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